

IN THE SPECIFICATION

[0001] This application claims the benefit of the filing date of United States Provisional Patent Application. The present application is a ~~continuing~~ continuation-in-part application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/282,356 (filed Oct. 29, 2002) entitled "Instrumentation and Methods for use in Implanting an Artificial Intervertebral Disc" ("the '356 application") and a ~~continuing~~ continuation application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/309,585 (filed Dec. 4, 2002) entitled "Static Trials and Related Instruments and Methods for use in Implanting an Artificial Intervertebral Disc" ("the '585 application") and a ~~continuing~~ continuation application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/425,267 (filed Apr. 29, 2003) entitled "Wedge Plate Inserter/Impactor and Related Methods for use in Implanting an Artificial Intervertebral Disc" ("the '267 application"). The '356 application is a continuing application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/256,160 (filed Sep. 26, 2002) entitled "Artificial Intervertebral Disc Having Limited Rotation Using a Captured Ball and Socket Joint With a Solid Ball and Compression Locking Post" ("the '160 application"), which is a parent application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/642,528 (filed Aug. 15, 2003) entitled "Axially Compressible Artificial Intervertebral Disc Having Limited Rotation Using a Captured Ball and Socket Joint With a Solid Ball and Compression Locking Post" ("the '528 application") and a ~~continuing~~ continuation-in-part application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/175,417 (filed Jun. 19, 2002) entitled "Artificial Intervertebral Disc Utilizing a Ball Joint Coupling", which is a ~~continuing~~ continuation-in-part application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/151,280 (filed May 20, 2002) entitled "Tension Bearing Artificial Disc Providing a Centroid of Motion Centrally Located Within an

Intervertebral Space", which is a ~~continuing~~-continuation-in-part application of both U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/970,479 (filed Oct. 4, 2001) entitled "Intervertebral Spacer Device Utilizing a Spirally Slotted Belleville Washer Having Radially Extending Grooves" as well as U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/140,153 (filed May 7, 2002) entitled "Artificial Intervertebral Disc Having a Flexible Wire Mesh Vertebral Body Contact Element", the former being a ~~continuing~~-continuation-in-part application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/968,046 (filed Oct. 1, 2001) entitled "Intervertebral Spacer Device Utilizing a Belleville Washer Having Radially Extending Grooves" and the latter being a continuing application of both U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/970,479 (detailed above) as well as U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/128,619 (filed Apr. 23, 2002) entitled "Intervertebral Spacer Having a Flexible Wire Mesh Vertebral Body Contact Element", which is a ~~continuing~~ continuation-in-part application of both U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/906,119 (filed Jul. 16, 2001) and entitled "Trial Intervertebral Distraction Spacers" as well as U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/982,148 (filed Oct. 18, 2001) and entitled "Intervertebral Spacer Device Having Arch Shaped Spring Elements". All of the above mentioned applications are hereby incorporated by reference herein in their respective entireties.